



## Movies, Girls, and No School

### Media Day

by Matt Bellet

In January, Mr. Thurmond informed the eighth graders that they were going to go to Harpeth Hall for an event called Media Day. After an informational meeting with the Thurmonator, the eighth grade grew excited about the day away from MBA. It is not hard to imagine the thoughts running through their heads: *Less School!* and *No Homework!* and *Pizza!* best of all *Girls!* They then asked the

upperclassmen about the phenomenon that they had experienced last year. Their response was that it was

On a cold January morning, these bold adventurers arrived at Harpeth Hall at 9:00. There they distanced themselves from their parents' cars as quickly as possible and went to the auditorium. The speaker was Dr. David Considine, an Australian professor of instructional technology and media studies at Appalachian State University. His



*Emmy and Tanner fight for the right to the mic'.*

notoriously...well...boring. The eighth grade was not discouraged – they would have to find out for themselves...

main topic was the film industry and its effect on teens. With the help of many clips from movies, Dr. Considine showed us the techniques

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## The Trance of the Dance

by Ryan Shephard and Ryan Hill

'Twas a night after Christmas, and all through the school, not a creature was stirring, no, not one fool. Until we arrived, of course! It was a little awkward at first; the girls stood at one end, the guys at the other. There was some whispered planning on each side. Suddenly, a voice

boomed out from the darkness, "You guys ready for a party?" The boys looked around quizzically and then



*7th Graders: Mixing or Mixed up??*

noticed a lame joke of a D.J., standing behind a ritual table of some sort. He took some kind of magical disc from a case and then proceeded to insert it into some

futuristic machine of wonder. All of a sudden, there was a loud outburst from a tall "speaker," as he called it. A strange aura of power seemed to be emanating from its depths, and, much to my astonishment, everyone started charging at each other. In the center, they clashed. Some of the more timid decided to take to the table of sustenance at the back of the room. We seemed to be under some kind of spell, with our bodies flying everywhere and our minds in a state of delusion.

Okay, back to reality. As you might have guessed, I over exaggerated with the "aura of

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Page 1

# Trance of Dance

power" thing. But we did have our hands up in the air as if we were praising an all powerful god who let down a gleaming ball that transfixed us. . .see, there I go again.

Anyway, we started out with a couple of really loud songs, just to get everybody snug and bunched up. Then the D.J. switched to a slow song and announced this dance as a "gentleman's choice." Now everyone sort of circled around and glared at each other, until the braver of us decided to go for it. After the song finished, the D.J. wasn't quite as successful at getting us riled up again. I quote from fellow 7<sup>th</sup> grader Tyler

Cauble: "That D.J. is a forty-year-old who lives with his mom." I can't say that I disagree. I mean, the guy had sunglasses on, and the room was nearly pitch black. No wonder he stunk at using the turntable, which was a minute embarrassment anyway. That's enough about the D.J. though because we really couldn't have had the dance without him. Even so, some of his songs were capital-to-the-extreme LAME. Here is a short list of popular songs and some unknown requested ones: "Jesus Walks," "Sole Survivor," "Gold Digger," "Banana Pancakes," compliments of H. Luna, "Lean Back," and "BYOB."

As always, there were a chosen few "specimens" that felt it best not to come under the trance of dance. These are the creatures that feel safer watching from the sidelines the whole time. Now don't

be too hard on these guys; they have their own reasons. I have recently done research on these specimens, and I have come to find that it is not



*Duff Man the Dance-king*

that they are uncomfortable with the situation; they are just meticulously processing the concept of such uproarious behavior. They notice that most people *willingly* come under the trance, and it is hard for



*Carter's Choice*

them to understand why. Maybe they are right about us being too crazy at dances. . .naaah. They aren't as mentally developed as we are in a certain part of the brain that makes us have random moments of

crazy behavior. This part is known as Crazio Uproariallus. This must be why they get such good grades at school; this brain section is said to cover up your reasoning and common sense skills, but that is something parents probably made up to explain their sons' "magnetism" toward demerits.

Now we come to a well-known concept that gets everyone riled up: the party boy. The party boy is known to shoot around the room, jumping on random people. He is rarely motionless and does not seem to want to

fraternize with anyone, only jump, push, skitter, scatter, and cause general uproar. If you come across one of these party boys, it is best to move away slowly so that you don't disturb him with any sudden

movement. If you are not careful, you could find yourself flying into the middle of a group of girls against your will and then being nearly trampled to death by those around you.

But overall, the mixer was a success. All we needed was a better DJ, 100% participation, better tunes, and a bigger floor, but the atmosphere was great.

Organizers should consider getting rid of the disco ball because it doesn't even move! Everyone should be looking forward to the next dance and, to those of you who just talked to your friends the whole time, get a life and get on the floor.



# Media Day

used to make the movie viewer react in different ways. He talked about how films are created though language and mood and how to read them as historical artifacts. The presentation was fairly interesting and probably helped us to look at the movies we see in a different way. With our newfound knowledge, we broke into groups of about twenty boys and girls to analyze certain scenes of movies. From our separate rooms, we then went back to the auditorium and presented our thoughts on the film scenes to the rest of the students. There was a variety of movies we analyzed. (We agreed that the worst one was probably *Whale Rider*.)

Everything went smoothly until lunch arrived. We went into the spacious cafeteria to eat pizza and drink canned juice. I sat down at a table several times, but the seats would immediately fill up with only MBA students. I was forced to get up again several times to start a new "colony" at another table. With a few other bold adventurers, I finally made an integrated table with boys and girls. (Not that we actually talked to each other.) Then the unexpected happened: the pizza ran out! Some people panicked, but Harpeth Hall sandwiches came to the rescue. We finally went back to

our groups to complete our procrastinated reports.

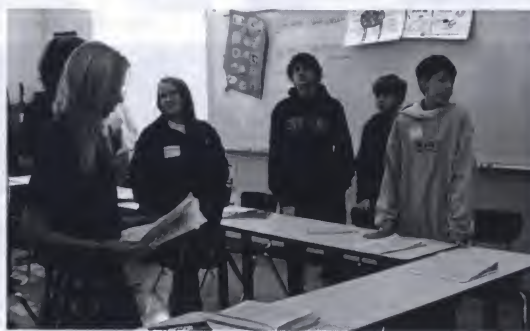


*Denzel's Adrenaline powers aid his movie analysis.*

Following are some comments from those who experienced Media Day firsthand: "Media day was like a leaky red pen, cause you think it's cool at the beginning because it looks like blood, but soon the coolness wears down and you realize that you have a pen stain in your shirt pocket that

have to get you a pocket protector!!!' Then both you and your shirt are scarred for life. Also I was surprised to see that the Honey Bears have such large lockers and that they have colorful walls unlike the dull off-white color of those in Massey. Oh yes, and I met some people too...which was kind of nice. But the greatest part of the entire Media Day experience was watching *Edward Scissorhands*, which includes Johnny Depp whom I hate with his out-of-control haircut that makes him look like a mad-scientist who just got an experiment messed-up and therefore the goop exploded in his hair causing static to form and the hair on his head to stand strait up. In other words, it was OK!!!" said the long-winded Ben Mecklenborg. "Absolutely nothing happened," said Wesley Wilson, "and it was very boring, but there were some pretty girls and other ones who caused me to vomit in my soul." Sam Moxley said, "I thought it was a great chance to meet with our counterparts at Harpeth Hall for a great day of fun." Last but not least, Hayden Wieck, who definitely has authority on these matters, said, "It was really cool because I got to collaborate with women."

I myself was not very successful in trying to talk to the girls that day. Overall, I thought it was a fairly fun and interesting event and a nice break from school work.



*Media Day-ing*

your mother is going to kill you for when you get home and she will say, '(enter your name here), I will just

# Keep on Dancing



*Miller the player?*



*Evan settles for a non-energy drink.*



*Doug and Harri bringing it down*



*What is the 'Meaning' of this, Will?*



*Bracefaces Galore...Lemme see your Grillz*



# Sports Trivia

## Jason Mathews

### Part Two

by Alex Apple

As a reminder, I interviewed Jason Mathews who played for the Titans for eight years and in the NFL for twelve years as an offensive lineman. He now teaches at MBA. The first part of the interview came out last issue. Here is the second part of the interview.

**Alex Apple:** What is Steve McNair like in the huddle?

**Mr. Mathews:** Steve McNair is very relaxed and often will crack a joke or something to keep everyone relaxed, but when it is time to play, Steve is all business.

**Alex:** Are there certain guys that you like blocking for more than others? What makes you like to block for someone?

**Mr. Mathews:** Certainly, I came into the NFL with the Colts, and Marshall Faulk was the running back at the time. It used to bother me when he would only sign an autograph for a kid if they had his TOPPS football card (his agent's advice). On the other hand, I loved to block for Eddie George.

He gave lots of credit to his offensive line and was a great person. You like to block for good people.

**Alex:** What was your most memorable experience during your twelve years in the NFL?

**Mr. Mathews:** Definitely the Music City Miracle! We were all jumping up and down because we were so shocked that it actually worked. It never worked in practice and Kevin Dyson was

not even supposed to run the play. Afterwards, we all ran to the locker room and took a deep breath because we knew we still had work to do. That play greatly changed our season.

**Alex:** What was the greatest part about the Super Bowl, and what was the biggest hassle?

**Mr. Mathews:** The greatest part about the Super Bowl was after we lost, we had a parade and everyone treated us like we had won. The biggest hassle was that you only get fifteen tickets to give to family, and you have to decide who to give them to. Additional tickets were five hundred dollars.

**Alex:** What coaches do you wish you could have played for?

**Mr. Mathews:** Bill Cowher of the Steelers and Jon Gruden of the Bucs.



## Sports Quiz

Andrew Phillips won the sports quiz last time and got a \$20 gift certificate to the movies. The prize this time will be another \$20 gift certificate to the movies. **Send in those answers** to Alex Apple!

1. Who won the 2005 NBA championship? (easy)
2. Who is Kentucky's head men's basketball coach currently? (easy)
3. Who is the Titan's offensive coordinator? (easy)
4. Who is the all-time home-run leader for Major League Baseball? (easy)
5. How many times has Barry Bonds won the National League MVP award? (hard)
6. Who was the UT men's basketball team head coach before Bruce Pearl? (easy)
7. Where is the University of Gonzaga (state only)? (medium)
8. How many times did Craig Counsell reach base on catcher's interference in 2004? (extremely hard)
9. What milestone did UT women's basketball coach, Pat Summit, recently win? (medium)
10. How many games did the Titans win this season? (easy)

# Golab's Stuff

## Hoodwinked

### Movie Review

by Jonathan Golab

*Hoodwinked* is a version of the story of Little Red Riding Hood. When all of the bakery shops close down because their recipes "disappear," the police become suspicious of Red's Granny (Glenn Close) who has not yet been shut down. Red (Anne Hathaway) is the delivery girl for Granny, and when Granny won't say more than a couple words to her over the phone, she decides to visit Granny's house. Enter the wolf (Patrick Warburton), a reporter for the paper. When Red goes "on a trip," the wolf sees her and decides to ask about why

Granny has not been stolen from yet. Red runs away, so the wolf, along with cameraman Twitchy, goes to Granny's house to meet Red there. That is where he gets the Granny mask and clothing, merchandise in the home. Granny is

mysteriously tied up in the closet. When a fight breaks out, the woodsman (Jim Belushi) breaks

through the window; the wolf, Granny, Red, and Twitchy all become petrified. With others, such

as Xzibit as a Captain Grizzly and Anthony Anderson as Bill Stork, a cop, this is a funny story with plot twists and action. The only problem is that it is too much of a G movie, even though it is rated PG. So, if you are in touch with

your inner child, go see this movie. If not, then wait till it is on DVD and use it for babysitting.



## Dr. Love

By Dr. J. Love

**Q:** Dr. Love: My girl won't talk to me. I have given her flowers, candy, even a ring that cost me four hundred and fifty dollars. Have I really messed things up to a point of no return? From Confused.

**A:** Dear Confused: There are a few possibilities. One is that you forgot a very important occasion like dating anniversary or birthday or a holiday. The second possibility is that you have spent so much time both waiting in line for or playing that dang Xbox 360 that you have not been paying enough attention to her. If it is either of those, the answer is it's pretty much over. What you should do is schedule an extremely romantic date and during the date,

apologize by saying you were being selfish. Hopefully that will do the trick. If not, she is going to trade you in for a better model if you catch my drift. The third possibility is that she is just using you because she knows you are rich. If that is the case, this is the time you should go, "Oh Snap, no she didn't! OK, girlfriend, like, two can, like, play at that game!" What I mean by that is you should break up with her the next time you see her and immediately start dating another girl. If she really cares about you, she will get jealous and start a fight over you with the decoy girlfriend. If not, she will just look the other way, in which case you just wasted over four hundred and fifty dollars! Good Job! (In NO way whatsoever does Dr. Love endorse using of girls for your own personal gain.)

**Q:** Dr. Love: I like this girl a lot but have only met her once. Should I ask her to be my girlfriend right now or wait a while to ask her? Signed, Love at First Sight.

**A:** Dear LFS: The answer is no way! If you asked that "special someone" to be your girl right now, there is a 2 to 1 chance that you will be shot down out of the sky and sent into a tailspin which causes you to have a fiery demise and broken heart. In other words, you would get rejected so fast you would get motion sickness. What you should probably do is get together with your friends that are also her friends and ask her to the social events you will be participating in, like movies or bowling or something like that. That way, she can get to know you and realize that you are the man that she wants to spend the rest of her life



# Golab's Stuff

with. I know that is a little mushy, but that is how some girls think. You will also get to know her better and make sure you truly want to go out with her. Like in the first question, she may be pretty but may possibly be a, excuse my French, lying gold digger. Anyway, just make sure to get to know her and give her a chance to get to know you.

**Q:** Dr. Love: I have had a girlfriend for three months now, and I finally want to meet her. You see, we met on one of those internet dating sites. How far down the road should I schedule a date? Sincerely, Internet Dater.

**A:** Dear Internet Dater: The answer to this question is. . . NEVER! Hopefully she only knows the screen name. If she knows your

personal information, get your parents to buy a new house in



Poland and move there immediately. Now I say these words because even though she may be a nice girl and

all, she may even turn out not to be a she. I say that because I had three friends do the internet dating services as a dare. The first one to go out ended up with a girl who said she was thirty and had no problems with the law. He goes on the date, and it ends up being a fifty-six year old male who's occupation was serial killer. The second guy gets a supposed thirty year old woman who was in a couple of old movies. That date turned out to be with his eighty-year-old grandmother. The third guy got set up with a thirty-five-year-old girl who loved kids. We all know this next joke so everyone say it with me. His date was. . . Michael Jackson! So here is my advice to you, dump her now. Move to California or Arizona or even Florida and go meet some girls. . . IN PERSON! I know, I know, at least half of you will end up with massive sunburn because you spend too much time in the dark watching *Lord of the Rings* or counting the days till *Harry Potter 4* comes out on DVD, but give it a shot. If you do get sunburn, use it to your advantage. Say that you were mugged by some thugs in the alleys or some other story. But do not, and I repeat, do not schedule a date with the internet "girl." Because unlike MTV says, there is something to fear about Michael Jackson and Neverland Ranch.

That is all the time I have for this week. And remember, celebrities are not always good people. Just look at Michael Jackson.

## Congratulations to the following students inducted into the Junior Honor Society:

Seth Akers-Campbell, Alex Apple, Matt Bracy, Kyle Brantley, Quinton Burks, Kevin Carr, George Curtis, Andrew D'Aquila, Sam Denney, Steven Gaittens, Lee Grubbs, Campbell Haynes, Will Henry, Jordan Herring, Rob Higham, Wiley Hunt, Jake Hymes, Pat Killian, Fitz Lassing, Joshua Liang, Patrick Lovett, John Lowe, Eric Mace, Hershel Mehta, Thomas Moore, Matthew Moynihan, Neil Ryan, Michael Seitz, Zach Sternberg, Daniel Todd, Matt Vanek, Richard Wall

# The Ben Files

## Gorillaz Review

by Ben Mecklenborg

Although the mysterious, anonymous, super-group, Gorillaz's most recent CD, *Demon Days*, is about a year or so old, it is under no circumstance bad. In fact, it is one of the best CD's I have had the pleasure of listening to in my day that has a linked message throughout the whole CD: get the United States out of Iraq.

Yes, it is anti-war and somewhat anti-U.S., but the catchy tunes and strong lyrics with a mix between rock, rap, gospel, and even techno really make it special. What

is also cool about this CD is that it has great titles for songs such as "The Fire Coming Out of the Monkey's Head" and "Kids with Guns." One last point is that it is not the normal Mariah Carry, 50 Cent, or American Reject sound that is polluting the market nowadays.

Some of the better known songs like "Dare" and "Feel Good Inc" are no doubt good songs but other excellent songs are "White Light" and "All Alone," which all of you who have a MP3 player should check out.

A great example of the anti-U.S. songs on this CD is "November Has Come," a rap song which talks about the U.S. media and materialistic ways of American citizens who have seemed to forget

about the privileges they have and have forgotten to thank God for everything.

If you do listen to this CD, I urge you to listen to words of the songs and not only be hypnotized by their catchy melodies that have captured the ears of American



## Myths and Legends

by Ben Mecklenborg

Many people don't know, but the teachers are not telling us students everything there is to know. Yes, we are taught the circumference of the Earth and how to prove that one equals two, but there is more to MBA than just the curriculum and sports; there are stories that are sealed in an envelope in some storage room in some disserted classroom. . .until now.

My job is to investigate the MBA vaults and find countless stories and myths about MBA and its mysterious past. I am going to tell three stories that I have found

in these vaults: The Backpack Sniper, The Honor Council Dungeon, and finally, the Junior School Uprising of 1976.

In 1958 there was a student named Jerry Skeeter, who was made fun of constantly because he stunk at basketball. He didn't do well in school, nor did he have many friends, he was short, fat, and obnoxious, but he never seemed violent. Then one day, another student named James Walton dunked on the puny five-foot-one Skeeter and sent him home crying to his mama. The next day was a dark and dreary day; there was rain, thunder, lightning, and all seemed well, but lurking in the shadows was little Jerry Skeeter walking silently through the halls. . .AFTER 8:00 o'clock. He should have been in first period, but he stayed in the halls

deep into the morning. He took his position outside each of James' classes watching from afar, but never once did he speak. He stalked his prey for several hours, never being recognized in the halls because he was always in the shadows. He then at the beginning of 8th period, took his position behind a wall of backpacks, and aimed his weapon at the door of his victim. The bell rang, and James walked through the door laughing. PLOOP went the giant spitball right down James' throat. This was but only the first of the Sniper's many attacks.

There have been many rumors of a Dungeon below the Honor Council Room, but no one has been brave enough to investigate until I took a look around. First, I asked Jordan Herring, the Junior



# The Ben Files

School Representative, about this rumor, but he had no comment saying, "What goes on in the Honor Council stays in the Honor Council." He sounded suspicious so I asked Brian Swenson, one of the 9th grade representatives, who gave me the same answer. This no-comment was even more suspicious. Then finally I investigated for myself.

I opened the doors to the regular Honor Council Room, which was decorated by standard white paint and a few posters no different from any other room in the school. Then I turned around as was met by the 11th grade and 12th grade Honor Council Representatives. I knew I was on to something. I quickly took a couple steps back and tripped over my shoelaces. They had me now; there was nothing I could do.

They brought my tied-up body down to a secret dark room I had never seen before and tied me tautly to a pole. They looked at me and said, "You know too much." I noticed many clubs (baculi), matches, and a single light hanging from a cage-like box. They soon lowered the cage on top of me and began to interrogate me. I told them nothing for I knew nothing, at least until they had so strategically

brought me into the dungeon they had wanted to keep me out of. They whacked, smacked, and supplied me with bruises that look like stripes running across my arms which are still visible today. (I will show them to you if you ask me.) I got out alive with my amazing Karate/Samurai/

of this Junior School Uprising.

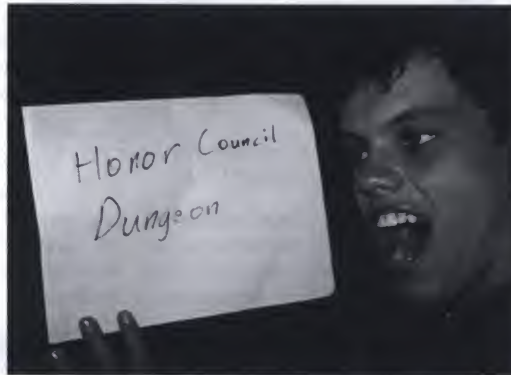
On a warm day in 1976, the Junior Schoolers played in the courtyards of their school, MBA. Their principal, Mr. Jasper, called a meeting in the auditorium for all microbes. This meeting was about a dream he had the last night about

a school without high schoolers or teachers or anyone else to tell them what to do. The JS took this speech very seriously and began to dream to themselves about an all-microbe school.

One day the HS didn't let the JS see what was happening at a pep rally, so the JS attacked. Demerits and spitballs were being thrown/spat everywhere, but the kind hearted JS let all of the high schoolers get away unharmed. The HS fled to Harpeth Hall and Saint Cecilia where they were safe.

The JS set up a government run by a select group of the smartest and wittiest JSers. They made seven commandments ranging from "All JSers are equal" to "No JSer can steal another JSer's lunch tray."

They worked to support their school that they had now renamed Junior School Academy, and they did support it very well for a few months, until one of the government officials made plans to make a gymnasium that would support all their needs for sports. All the JS liked this idea and began to construct it. After several months of labor with small rations and long hours, they had completed their



*Roger at the gates of the Honor Council Dungeon*

Ninja skills, but that is another story. And so the story is told, and the secret is out. . .there is an actual Honor Council Dungeon so don't get in trouble.

The final story is about the Junior School Uprising of 1976. There is little information about this incident probably because it is embarrassing to the school or all documents were destroyed afterwards. This real life story actually is written about in a real book called *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. (Everyone should read it because it is a really well written novel.) This novel is supposedly a parody of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, but is actually a parody

# On the Hill

project. They celebrated and congratulated each other, but there was no equipment; thus, they could not play.

During the night, some HSers snuck onto the campus and set fire to the gymnasium and burned it to the ground, leaving no reusable parts for a new gymnasium. When the JSers woke up, they were shocked and refused to begin a second new gymnasium. The ones who complained then were forced by the JS Government to be expelled. JSers who were left began work on the second gym with smaller rations than before and even longer hours.

For several months they again labored, but everyday about



*Min is amused while researching the Junior School Uprising of 1976.*

one JSer was expelled, making the others work harder. Although not much is left of this part of the story, I hypothesize that the JS was running

low on workers, making them weak, and thus the HS could take back control after a whopping seven semesters of JS regime.

I hope you have learned, are aware of the legends, and investigate them for yourself. For now, we are creating the legends for future students, so we must keep the tradition alive and allow future students to talk about what you or

your class did back in 2006.

7th graders: Come to TOH Meetings, you are our Future!!! Ask me for details.

## First-Ever Junior School Production

Will Tom (Corbin Williams) win Becky's (Mary Hampton Elam) love?

Will Injun Joe (Will Campbell) get away with the murder of Doc Robinson (Alex Gant)?

Will Aunt Polly (Mrs. Pettus) tan Tom's hide?

Can Muff Potter (Sam Moxley) be saved?

Will the Widder Douglas (Ms. Hollifield) adopt Huck (Lewis Armistead)?

Can Jeff Thatcher (Ben Mecklenborg) lick Tom?



*"Nuthin's more fun-er, much easier done'r Than, paintin' the fence!"*

Can Director Rick Seay really make microbes memorize their lines, sing on key, exit stage left, remember their cues, stay in character, speak distinctly and project?

Come to the Junior School's production of *Tom Sawyer* on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 31st through April 2nd.



# Win Money!!

## Announcing New Jesse Hill Ford Short Story Contest

Who: 7th and 8th Graders

What: Short Story composed during the current school year

Length: 3-8 pages, double-spaced

Prize: The best shot story wins \$150!!

Due by Friday, April 7th

Turn in a printed copy and e-mail a copy to either Mrs. Pettus or Mrs. Bourland

## The Rascoe Bond Davis Creative Writing Contest

Categories: Poetry and Ficiton

Prizes in both Categories:

1st \$50

2nd \$35

3rd \$10

E-mail a copy and submit a printed copy to Mrs. Bourland or Mrs. Pettus.

Due by Friday, April 7, for Junior School

# The Ben Files

## From Under the Cork Tree

### Music Review

by Ben Mecklenborg

Fall Out Boy, one of the best new rock bands out there, has come out with their first CD named *From Under the Cork Tree*. This CD is by far the best CD I have ever listened to in my entire LIFE. This CD is a pure rock album, no rap, no slow ballads, just the good stuff.

Most everyone has heard of "Sugar We're Goin Down" and

"Dance, Dance," but these are just the tip of the iceberg. Other GREAT songs are "Sophomore Slump" or "Comeback of the Year," "7 Minutes in Heaven," "Don't Put Baby in the Corner," "Of All the Gin Joints in the World," and "Our Lawyer Made Us Change the Name of this Song."

This four-man band has an interesting sound that I can't really compare to anyone particular, but the upbeat songs, catchy tunes, and awesome lyrics make it a rare find in the music store in an age where consumers are more worried about how fast some rapper can "sing."

These songs are mostly about problems that teenage boys go through, such as dating and getting along with girls. One of the great

things about this CD is that there is NO profanity at all, which means that you can turn up your favorite song without worrying about your parents getting mad at you.

As I said before, this is the best CD I have ever listened to, and everyone should get it (even you 7<sup>th</sup> graders). Download the songs above if you don't want to buy the entire CD. Also Fall Out Boy is going on tour soon, so look out for them.



## gtg cya l8er

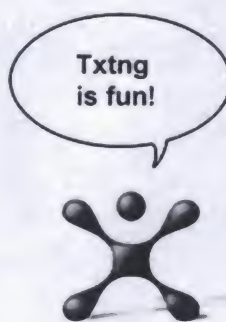
by Ben Mecklenborg

Some declare I am like a dog that will never shut up, a stereotypical excessively austere Belle Meade Police officer, just in the realm of grammar, but I am merely out to stop the plague that is... bad grammar and other stupid habits of our day. If you have talked to me lately, you have probably been corrected in the use of incorrect grammar. You may think this action is uncalled for and that it doesn't really matter if you say "It's me" or "It is I," but it is important to some people such as me and I'm sure your Grammar/English teacher.

Now I am not saying that I am the perfect grammar student because I am not, just ask Mr.

Anderson. But by correcting others, I hope that I can guide today's youth to the ways of the 1700's English Aristocrat.

There are numerous main



problems I face each day as the "Policeman of Grammar," but probably the worst is as I said before the misuse of "I" and "me." Imagine

you are in a conversation with one of your friends and said, "Oswald, me, Sally, Suzie, Jeffy, and Leopold are going to the movies. Do you want to come too?" Obviously there is the misuse of me, but also the 1st person pronoun should have come as the last of the list of names.

One of the worst forms of writing I have seen in my life is the craze in teenagers to shorten words and phrases to "U" (You) "GTG" (Got to Go) "Pics" (pictures). Is it really that hard to type out "you, got to go, or pictures?" If you have ever gone to a mall such as the Green Hills mall and heard girls yelling to their girlfriends (I mean girlfriend as in fellow girl who is a friend) about how their evil parents are trying to ruin their social life by making them leave ten minutes early

Continued on Page 13



# Science Olympiad

and then finishing by saying GTG C Ya L8er.

Another problem that is going to bring today's youth down and bury them with depleted soil, but that's another story, is the use of Text Messaging on their phones. I think that by "texting," you are not only burning a hole in your parent's wallets, you are also neglecting the purpose of phones in the first place, to talk to people. Although one could argue that phones are used for communication and that "texting" is a form of communication, think about how by texting "hey" to a cute girl sitting two yards away is somewhat unnecessary.

Slang, although a literary device, is not totally necessary in our society other than the fact that it differentiates one culture from another. I use slang, I say "What's up," "See ya," and "Cool" (which is now one of the most frequently used connotation of a word), but this is not what language is supposed to be used for. Language is supposed to be used so that everyone can communicate with each other. The problem is that if every generation, ethnic group, or whatever has a different idea of the definition of "Fat/Phat," it might as well not have a definition at all.

A final comment is that I am not opposed to slang, texting, or bad grammar to an extreme degree, but I want to reduce this atrocity of the use of the gift of a voice that we have received from God.

USE LANGUAGE EFFECTIVELY  
FOR A VOICE IS A POWERFUL  
THING!



*Sweeny and his first-place bridge*



*Zach's Mission Im-Possible*

Working up to the last minute, the Science Olympiad Team ended up taking 2nd Place in the Chattanooga State Region Competition. MBA took gold in seven events and received medals in all but four events. Congratulations to the 2006 Division B Team!



*"DO NOT TOUCH"*



*Kevin has fun with fire.*



*Holmgren after a bad week.*

# Basketball

## Hoops Domination 8th Grade Basketball

by Alex Apple

The MBA 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team finished up a spectacular season with a championship at the TNT state tournament in Springfield. The season included many highlights. We started off the

Juliet in the finals. Tyler Paslick and Luke Colbert were named to the all-tournament team, and Fitz Lassing achieved MVP honors. We won our next three games, including a barn-burner against CPA. Then we continued our undefeated regular season with blow-out victories over Ensworth twice and Brentwood Academy once more. We then beat Brentwood Middle in the last

hind Fitz Lassing's 16 points. We met a hot CPA team in the finals and fell behind early, but we were able to make a run in the second half. We had terrific fan support led by Charles Herron and Jeff Nutkis, who gave us the boost that we needed to make a possible comeback in the second half. Tyler Paslick hit numerous huge three pointers that tied the game, sending it into overtime. Surging

out to a quick three-point lead in the extra period, MBA had momentum, but CPA hit several big shots to put them ahead. Paslick had a look at a last second shot



*8th Grade Basketball Team after winning the Overbrook Classic*

year with big victories against Whithorne and rival Brentwood Academy. Then we traveled to Overbrook over the Christmas break to compete in the Overbrook Classic, where we won the championship, beating rivals Lipscomb and then Mt.

regular season game which, giving us a number one seed and bye in the HVAC tournament. Also, the win secured a regular season championship.

We beat BGA in the semi-finals of the HVAC tournament by an 18-point margin be-

from near half court, but the ball fell wide. CPA handed us our first loss of the season. Tyler Paslick and Fitz Lassing made the all-tournament team.

The season was not over though because we still had the TNT state tournament left. We



# Basketball

came out focused in our semi-finals game against Jasper and beat them handily. In the champion-

## 7th Grade



*Tyler drives for a layup against St. Henry.*

ship game against Lipscomb, the team was very fired up as was evident by a mishap while announcing the starting lineups. (Ask Tee Griscom how fired up he was!) We controlled the game the whole way. Behind Tyler Paslick's big shots and Luke Colberts's great rebounding, we won by a double-digit margin. STATE CHAMPIONS! Our entire starting lineup made it on the all-tournament team or honorable mention. The whole team had a great season, and we all would like to thank our wonderful coaches, Gary Waller and Mrs. Bakken.

The 7th grade team finished its season with a 14-4 record, with one of the losses coming from Lipscomb's 8th grade team. The game against Brentwood Academy was a thriller as BA won 54-56 in overtime. The Ensworth game revealed the character of this team, as they fell behind by 14 points in the first quarter but rallied to win 55-37. Chase Owen and Joe Riegle led the team; Chase averaged 12.3 points per game while Joe averaged 9.4 ppg.

Most improved players were John Baker and Russ Anderson. Coach Eugene Talley states: "Being a first-year coach, I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys. Their willingness to listen and learn made my job as coach that much easier. I enjoyed every minute of coaching these guys, and this team will always be special to me because it was my first time coaching. I have great expectations for all of these young men on and off the court." Thanks to Coaches Talley, Bakken, and Waller for an outstanding season.



*John Lowe*



# Swimmin'

## The Phenomenal Season

by Pat Killian

The 2005-2006 MBA Microbe swim team can be described in one word: phenomenal. Several strong newcomers joined

diving with a strong performance by former city champion Shep Patterson. Several weeks later, MBA rolled into the University of the South for yet another invitational. Here the team would come head-to-head with its rival from last season, Baylor; this time around, however, there was not much competition. MBA won eight of eleven events and smashed meet records in every single one. After a break over the holidays, Coach Grey

in front of the second place team; in fact, their score was so high, they took second in the combined standings (against coed teams). There was not much time for celebration, however, because the very next weekend was the Middle School Southeastern Championship. The swimmers drove down to Chattanooga for the competition hosted by Baylor, which has a very nice pool and complex. (Wouldn't it be nice if



*Seth Akers-Campbell*

the ranks of the already strong team from last year and guaranteed the new season would be a great one for the "Big Red Wave." After months of training, the Junior School swimmers made their first appearance at the annual **Middle School invitational at TSU** and showed they were on a drastically higher level than any other school, winning uncontested and claiming first place in all events except three as well as the victory in men's

Carter whipped the team into shape for the Excel Invitational out in Brentwood, the unofficial city championship. The night before the swimming portion of the meet, Shep Patterson again dominated diving, easily taking first place. The Big Red's supremacy in the pool was clear throughout the meet, a good example being Chase Lovelace's 21-second margin of victory in the 200 I.M., a mind-blowing win. The squad won the meet over 100 points

MBA got one. . .) After spending the night in a hotel, the team got up early for the start of the meet. It was not going to be a stroll in the park for them this time, with a surprise appearance by a strong McCallie team, several absences and injuries, and a different scoring system. At the smaller meets, everyone swam once, and only the top three finishers scored, but at the championship, the top sixteen finishers from the preliminary



# Swimmin'



*Chase Lovelace*

session came back at night to swim again, and they all scored. This system would end up hurting MBA, simply because McCallie had a bigger team. The morning swims were fairly good, and there were at least two guys in almost every final. Unfortunately, McCallie got in four of their swimmers in each. MBA was now an underdog, and they knew it. Between prelims and finals, diving was held. Shep Patterson took a tough 7<sup>th</sup> place finish due to one bad dive that knocked him from third. After eating and resting, the team returned to the pool ready to rock. A pep talk from Coach Carter got everyone fired up, and the Wave started things off with a big win in the 200 medley relay, upsetting #1 seeded McCallie and setting a new meet record. The guys swam hard all night, moving up in place more often than down, but McCallie's numbers proved too great. MBA finished second, the

same as last year, but not because of lack of talent. Finalists (top eight finishers) were Tyler Leroy (2<sup>nd</sup> in 50 freestyle, 1<sup>st</sup> in 100 backstroke), Seth Akers-Campbell (3<sup>rd</sup>- 500 free, 200 free), Alvin Kim (4<sup>th</sup>- 100 back, 7<sup>th</sup>- 100 free), Chase Lovelace (1<sup>st</sup>- 200 IM, 100 breaststroke), Jarvis Werkhaven (3<sup>rd</sup>- 100 butterfly), Gage Baxter (4<sup>th</sup>- 200 free, 5<sup>th</sup>- 100 breast), and Shep Patterson (3<sup>rd</sup>- 100 back). Big Red relays captured two victories and took second in the third race by .001. Daniel Smith, Cooper Thomas, Mikey Reid, and Lee Grubbs placed in consolation heats (places 9-16). On top of winning both of his

events, Chase Lovelace also set new meet records that smashed the previous ones.

The season was a good one for MBA, even with the slightly disappointing finish. The MBA Junior School swimming program is only in their second year of existence, but the future looks bright with yet another strong class of swimmers coming next year. This year's team thanks Coach Carter and their own Coach V (Mrs. Villavicencio) for

all of their commitment to and trust in this team. Neither can wait till the boys get into high school.



*Pat Killian*

# Food: D-Whit vs. D-White

## Daniel White's Pizza Ranking

In the last few years, Nashville has become one of the South's biggest pizza makers, with several pizza shops in town. Some of the favorite restaurants include Bellacino's, the Mellow Mushroom, and Michelangelo's.

Bellacino's is one that most of us are familiar with. It is located on White Bridge Road in the strip with Pier 1 Imports and Electronic Express. Their pizza is slightly different, serving it in squares instead of triangles. Although it takes a while to prepare, it is best to call ahead. I like Bellacino's because that is the place where my dad and I bond and talk about guy stuff. I have seen several MBA students there, including Lewis Armistead. His favorite is the Barbeque Pizza, and mine is the

Italian Sausage Pizza. Also, they issue several coupons in local magazines to ensure a big meal for small bucks.


The Mellow Mushroom is a favorite with the Vanderbilt students because it is located near the Peabody campus and across the street from the Jean and Alexander Heard Library. If that doesn't ring a bell, it's on 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, next to Cheeseburger Charley's. They have the best crust Nashville. It is light and flaky. Their eclectic environment is accompanied by its several TV's and tasteful rock music. To make this occasion better, they valet park your car free. The pizza is outstanding, making me full after a few slices.

Lastly, there is Michelangelo's. There are two

locations to better serve Nashvillians. One is on Elliston Place, which is off of West End and in Green Hills. Their pizza is outstanding and was a weekly favorite when I attended Head Magnet School. "They offer great school rates!" said Mrs. Christeson. One would rather have a local pizza company than a chain. Also, they offer coupons in local magazines as well. The pizza is not as good as Bellacino's or Mellow Mushroom, but it is still mighty tasty!

In conclusion, the pizza at these places is outstanding and has set the standards in Nashville. Well, I know you are wondering what my favorite place is and...you will have to find out, but don't take my word for it!

## Mr. Whitfield's Pizza and Fast Food Opinion

 <p><b>D-Whit</b></p>	<p><b>"Ghetto Rigged English Muffin Pizzas"</b></p> <p>Thomas English Muffin Ragoo Pizza Sauce Pepperoni</p> <p><b>Top 2 Pizza Ranking</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Uno's</li><li>2. Obi's</li></ol> <p><b>All-Star Ranking</b></p> <p>Burker King Burger McDonalds Fries Sonic Shakes</p>	 <p><b>D-White</b></p>
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# Entertainment

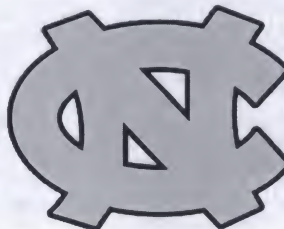


8th Grade Post-Exam  
Mixer  
January 20, 2006



## Campbell's TOP 25

- |                      |                    |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Duke              | 8. Illinois        | 17. North Carolina |
| 2. Connecticut       | 9. Boston College  | 18. Iowa           |
| 3. Memphis           | 10. Ohio State     | 19. Florida        |
| 4. Villanova         | 11. Texas          | 20. LSU            |
| 5. Gonzaga           | 12. Michigan State | 21. Wisconsin      |
| 6. West Virginia     | 13. UCLA           | 22. Oklahoma       |
| 7. George Washington | 14. Pittsburgh     | 23. Washington     |
|                      | 15. Georgetown     | 24. Kansas         |
|                      | 16. N.C. State     | 25. Marquette      |





# The Back Page

*Math Counts Champions 2006*



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